Requirement of proficiency in English for foreign pilots

1491. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign pilots flying passenger aeroplanes in India;

(b) whether these pilots are able to speak and write in the English language; and

(c) whether it is mandatory for the candidates applying for flying passenger aeroplanes that they should be able to speak and write in the English language?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The number of foreign pilots working in various airlines in India is 565.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

New equity norms for airlines

1492. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether, to ensure that the aviation sector attracts only serious players in the long run, Government have decided to raise the bar and increase the minimum equity needed to float an airline to Rs. 50 crore for the first five aircrafts of an airline with large aircraft fleet and to Rs. 20 crore for those with smaller aircrafts;

(b) whether the Ministry issued a notification with these changes that will also apply to existing airlines which will be given a year's time to bring their equity at par with the rules; and

(c) if so, to what extent these changes have been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The Government policy with regard to Grant of No Objection Certificate (NOC) to new airlines is reviewed from time to time depending upon the growth and requirements of civil aviation sector.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.